



Rural Business & Cooperative Loan Programs

Rural Opportunity Grants (RBOG)

Purpose:

The purpose is to promote sustainable economic development in rural communities with exceptional needs.

Eligible Entities:

- Public bodies, private non-profit corporations and Federally recognized tribal groups and cooperatives with members that are primarily residents and that conduct activities for the mutual benefit of the members. For-profit businesses are ineligible applicants. Applicant must have significant expertise in the activities applicant proposes to carry out with the grant funds and financial strength to ensure you can accomplish the objectives of the proposed grant. Project must include a basis for determining the success or failure of the project and assessing its impact.

Eligible areas:

- Rural areas are defined as any area other than a city or town that has a population of greater than 50,000 inhabitants and the urbanized area contiguous and adjacent to such city or town as defined by the U.S. Bureau of the census using the latest decennial census of the United States.

What type of activities can be funded?

- Identify and analyze business opportunities that will use local rural materials or human resources.
- Identify, train, and provide technical assistance to existing or prospective rural entrepreneurs and managers.
- Establish business support centers and otherwise assist in the creation of new rural businesses
- Conduct local community or multi-county economic development planning.
- Establish centers for training, technology, and trade that will provide training to rural businesses in the utilization of interactive communications technologies to develop international trade opportunities and markets.
- Conduct leadership development training of existing or prospective rural entrepreneurs and managers.
- Pay reasonable fees and charges for professional services necessary to conduct the technical assistance, training, or planning functions.

Grant funds may not be used for:

- Duplication of current services or replace or substitute support previously provided.
- Fund political activities.
- Acquisition of real estate, building construction or development.

Regulations 4284-G

http://rdinit.usda.gov/regs/regs_toc.html#4284